



**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WEBINAR FOR THE  
EXPANDING ACCESS TO WELL-ROUNDED  
COURSES DEMONSTRATION GRANTS PROGRAM  
(CFDA 84.424D)**

**MAY 20, 2020**

# HOUSEKEEPING

- Connection to audio is available through the dial-out feature via the link provided. If you are having difficulty connecting, you may also use the dial-in feature. Information to connect via dialing in is available on the screen.
- Use the Q&A Pod on your screen to send your questions to the moderator. These questions are viewable to the moderator only.
- For technical issues during the event,
  - Contact us at [info@t4pacenter.org](mailto:info@t4pacenter.org).
  - Contact us via the Q&A Pod.



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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# AGENDA

- Application Package
- FY 2020 Competition Overview
- Program Overview
- Program Priorities
- Application Requirements
- Selection Criteria and Scoring
- Performance Reporting
- The Government Performance and Results Act
- Submission Process
- Resources
- Questions (via the Q&A Pod)

# APPLICATION PACKAGE

- Review the entire application package.
- The application package is available at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).
  - Opportunity Number: ED-GRANTS-042720-001.
- If you have questions following the webinar or if you would like to request a copy of the application package, please e-mail the program mailbox at [courseaccess@ed.gov](mailto:courseaccess@ed.gov).



# FY 2020 COMPETITION OVERVIEW

- Official Document Notice
  - The official document governing the competition is the Notice Inviting Applications published in the “Federal Register” on April 27, 2020.
- Eligibility
  - State education agencies (SEAs).
- Application Due Date
  - All applications must be submitted electronically through the Grants.gov portal and must be submitted before **11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on June 26, 2020.**
    - Applications may not be e-mailed or faxed.
- Grants.gov Support
  - If you have any questions related to the Grants.gov portal, please e-mail the Grants.gov Contact Center at [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov) or call 1-800-518-4726.



# FY 2020 COMPETITION OVERVIEW

- Project Period
  - The project period for these grants is up to 60 months (five budget periods of 12 months each). Projects will be funded for the first year with an option for 4 additional years contingent upon demonstration of substantial progress by the grantee and the availability of future funds.
  
- Estimated Award Information
  - We estimate we will make approximately two to four new awards. Projects will be funded approximately \$1million to \$3 million per year for up to 5 years, depending on the scope of work.





# FY 2020 COMPETITION OVERVIEW

- Review of Application
  - The review of applications for this grant competition will take approximately 1 to 2 weeks, depending on the number of applications we receive.
- Notification of Awards
  - We expect to notify successful applicants by late August 2020. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified within 60 days after awards are announced.



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Purpose
  - The Expanding Access to Well-Rounded Courses Demonstration Grants program provides competitive grants to SEAs to demonstrate models for providing well-rounded educational opportunities through course-access programs.

# PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Absolute Priority
  - Expanding Access to Well-Rounded Courses
    - Projects designed to (a) develop or expand, (b) implement, and (c) widely disseminate information on course-access programs (as defined in this notice) to other State or local education leaders and researchers.
  - To meet this absolute priority, an SEA must
    - Describe how its course-access program as a whole would make a broad range of courses widely available for all students in the State, though a particular course need not be available to every student in the State (i.e., in the case of an in-person course available in a particular location).
    - Specifically describe how, in addition to serving all students, its proposed program would meet the needs of rural students or disadvantaged students, such as students from low income families and students with disabilities, and contribute to preparing students to be college and career ready.



# APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Application Requirement #1
  - A description of the SEA's approach to developing or expanding, and implementing, a course-access program using this grant.

# APPLICATION REQUIREMENT 1(A): DESCRIPTION OF THE SEA'S APPROACH

Describe its approach to developing or expanding, and implementing, a course-access program using this grant, including the types of courses it proposes to offer. The applicant **should describe how the SEA will determine which courses to offer and how it will ensure the courses it offers are high-quality and contribute to preparing students for college and career.** The description **must include the learning formats of the courses (e.g., distance learning, online courses, in-person courses), and the resulting course-access program must include more than one learning format among the course offerings, but a specific course need not be available in multiple formats.** The description **must also address how, in addition to meeting the needs of all students, the courses it proposes to offer to meet the needs of rural students, disadvantaged students, or students with disabilities;**



# APPLICATION REQUIREMENT 1(B): DESCRIPTION OF THE SEA'S APPROACH

**Describe how its approach will complement, rather than duplicate, existing efforts** to provide students with access to courses that contribute to a well-rounded education, **how project funds will supplement, and not supplant, non-Federal funds** that would otherwise be available for activities funded under this program, and **how the project will integrate existing funding streams from other programs**, such as but not limited to the Student Support and Academic Enrichment program authorized by title IV, part A of the ESEA, to support the project;



# APPLICATION REQUIREMENT 1 (C & D): DESCRIPTION OF THE SEA'S APPROACH

**Describe how its approach will ensure that any student in the State has the opportunity to request access to courses and how the SEA will determine which students to serve** if it receives more requests for services than available funds can support (e.g., a lottery system, priority for students with the greatest need, first-come first-served, or other criteria that are fair and publicly available); and

**Describe how it will engage a broad range of stakeholders**, which may include school administrators, teachers, and families from geographically and economically diverse school districts, to support the **development and the continuous improvement** of the course-access program.



# APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Application Requirement #2
  - A plan for promoting awareness of and participation in the SEA's course-access program using this grant.



# APPLICATION REQUIREMENT 2: PROMOTING PARTICIPATION

An SEA **must describe how it will provide outreach** to students, parents (as defined in this notice), and educators on the availability of courses in its course-access program and **how students, or parents on behalf of students, will select and be enrolled in those courses.** The plan should specifically address **how the SEA will provide outreach to all students,** including rural students, disadvantaged students, or students with disabilities, or students that have been traditionally underrepresented in the courses the applicant is proposing to offer. This plan **must include an approach to receiving requests from parents to add course offerings not included in the SEA's course-access program, to which the SEA must respond to the parents in writing.**

# APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Application Requirement #3
  - A description of the SEA's approach to paying for students' participation in course offerings funded under this grant.

# APPLICATION REQUIREMENT 3(A & B): PAYING FOR COURSES

Describe any criteria it will use to **identify course providers;**

Describe the methods that it will use **to pay for students to participate in courses;**

# APPLICATION REQUIREMENT 3(C): PAYING FOR COURSES

Describe how the SEA will establish a **written agreement between the SEA and each provider** that must include

- i. **A nondiscrimination clause** that requires the provider to abide by all applicable non-discrimination laws with regard to students to be served, e.g., on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability;
- ii. A description of **how the grantee will oversee the service provider and hold the provider accountable for**
  - i. (A) The terms of the written agreement; and
  - ii. (B) The use of funds, including compliance with generally accepted accounting procedures and Federal cost principles; and
- iii. A provision for the **termination of the agreement** if the provider is unable to meet the terms of the agreement.



# APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Application Requirement #4
  - A project plan that includes a specific timeline for developing or expanding, and implementing a course-access program.

# APPLICATION REQUIREMENT 4:

## IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

An SEA **must provide a detailed plan for developing or expanding, and implementing a course-access program and continuously improving grant activities.** As necessary and appropriate, an SEA **may include in its plan a period of up to 12 months during the first year of the project period for program development.** SEAs that propose to use this option must provide sufficient justification for why this program planning time is necessary, provide the intended outcomes of program planning in Year 1, and include a description of the proposed strategies and activities to be supported, which may include, but are not limited to, performing outreach to communities in need of support and training schools, LEAs, and community members.

# APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Application Requirement #5
  - A description of how an SEA will document and disseminate the results of the funded project.



# APPLICATION REQUIREMENT 5:

## DOCUMENTATION AND DISSEMINATION

An SEA **must describe how it will document and disseminate results of the project**, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), to promote improved capacity to implement course-access programs in other States, communities and schools. At a minimum, the SEA **must describe how it will document and disseminate information on course offerings, course enrollment rates, and changes in academic success for participating students**. This description **must include an explanation of the SEA's approach to contributing to the evidence base for course-access programs while protecting student privacy**.

# SELECTION CRITERIA AND SCORING

- Significance (10 points)
- The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project. In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:
  - i. The extent to which the proposed project is likely to build local capacity to provide, improve, or expand services that address the needs of the target population.
  - ii. The potential replicability of the proposed project or strategies, including, as appropriate, the potential for implementation in a variety of settings.

# SELECTION CRITERIA AND SCORING

- Quality of Project Design (30 points)
- The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:
  - i. The extent to which the proposed project is part of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and learning and support rigorous academic standards for students.
  - ii. The quality of the proposed demonstration design and procedures for documenting project activities and results.
  - iii. The extent to which the design of the proposed project reflects up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.

# SELECTION CRITERIA AND SCORING

- Quality of Project Services (40 points)
- The Secretary considers the services to be provided by the proposed project. In determining the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project, the Secretary considers the quality and sufficiency of strategies for ensuring equal access and treatment for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability. In addition, the Secretary considers the following factors:



# SELECTION CRITERIA AND SCORING

- i. The extent to which the proposed project represents an exceptional approach to the priority or priorities established for the competition.
- ii. The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities have been identified and will be addressed by the proposed project, including the nature and magnitude of those gaps or weaknesses.
- iii. The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project are appropriate to the needs of the intended recipients or beneficiaries of those services.
- iv. The adequacy of mechanisms for ensuring high-quality products and services from the proposed project.

# SELECTION CRITERIA AND SCORING

- Quality of Management Plan (20 points)
- The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project. In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:
  - i. The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.
  - ii. The extent to which the proposed project will integrate with or build on similar or related efforts to improve relevant outcomes (as defined in 34 CFR 77.1(c)), using existing funding streams from other programs or policies supported by community, State, and Federal resources.



# SELECTION CRITERIA AND SCORING

- iii. How the applicant will ensure that a diversity of perspectives are brought to bear in the operation of the proposed project, including those of parents, teachers, the business community, a variety of disciplinary and professional fields, recipients or beneficiaries of services, or others, as appropriate.
- iv. The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.



# SELECTION CRITERIA AND SCORING

Selection Criteria	Point Value
Significance	10 points
Quality of Project Design	30 points
Quality of Project Services	40 points
Quality of Management Plan	20 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 points</b>

# PERFORMANCE REPORTING

- The Expanding Access to Well-Rounded Courses Demonstration Grants Program recipients must submit an **annual performance report** demonstrating their progress in meeting approved project objectives.
- At the end of the project period, grantees will also be required to submit a **final performance report**.



# THE GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS ACT

- The **Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)** of 1993 requires federally funded agencies to develop and implement an accountability system based on performance measurement.
- It requires that all federally funded programs
  - Outline long-term and annual performance goals that include outcomes,
  - Develop indicators to assess performance goals,
  - Collect and analyze data on the indicators, and
  - Report progress toward achieving performance goals based on the data collected and analyzed.



# THE GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS ACT

- GPRA Measure #1
  - The number of courses available through the course access program disaggregated by (1) subject matter and (2) delivery format (e.g., distance learning, online courses, blended learning, or in-person classroom courses).
  
- GPRA Measure #2
  - The number of students who select and participate in course offerings supported by funds from this grant in comparison to the total number of students in the State.



# THE GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS ACT

- GPRA Measure #3
  - The course passage rate for course offerings supported by funds from this grant.
  
- GPRA Measure #4
  - The average cost per student participating in the course offerings disaggregated by (1) subject matter and (2) delivery format (e.g., distance learning, online courses, blended learning, or in-person classroom courses).
  
- GPRA Measure #5
  - Parent and student satisfaction with the available course offerings in terms of variety, accessibility, and quality of the courses.



# SUBMISSION PROCESS

- If you have not applied for a grant before, the first step in the process is obtaining a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet. You can request a DUNS number for free in order to do business with the federal government; please visit its website at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>.
- Next, you will need to ensure that your organization is registered with the System for Award Management (SAM), which is located at [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov). In order to complete your SAM registration, you must have your organization's Taxpayer ID Number (TIN) and taxpayer name.
  - An active SAM account is needed in order to submit an application.
- Lastly, in order to submit an application, you must complete an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) profile and enter a username and password on [grants.gov](http://grants.gov).



# SUBMISSION PROCESS

- After you submit your application to grants.gov, you will receive from grants.gov an automatic notification of receipt that contains a grants.gov tracking number. This notification indicates receipt by grants.gov only and is not a receipt by the U.S Department of Education (Department).
- The Department will retrieve your application from grants.gov and send a second notification to you by e-mail. This second notification will let you know if your application was submitted successfully and will assign your application a PR/Award number, which identifies your application at the Department.
  - Please make sure you have received this second notification before considering your application uploaded.





# RESOURCES

- The Title IV-A Technical Assistance Center
  - <https://t4pacenter.ed.gov/AboutUS.aspx>
- The National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments
  - <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/>
- Expanding Access to Well-Rounded Courses Demonstration Grants Program website
  - <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/safe-supportive-schools/expanding-access-to-well-rounded-courses-demonstration-grants-program/>

# QUESTIONS?



